

UTILITIES POLICY MOVES QUESTIONNAIRE RESPONSES

Planning Commission | March 27, 2024

Response ID	Which of these policy moves sound good to you, and what makes you say that?	Are there any policy ideas or considerations you think are missing?	What do you want the Planning Commissioners and the members of other boards and commissions to know as they discuss these policy moves and make their recommendations?
1475698	Leave it be. All is fine.	Keep our natural gas flowing well.	
1478582	Update existing policy to meet new state requirements for minimizing loss of native plants and use sustainable approaches to stormwater management on infrastructure projects.	quite throwing money at projects do it right the first time.	money
1485411			
1489868		I do not see anything about updating our utilities to survive a major earthquake, which is definitely in our future. I have read in the past about upgrading our water supply in a 50 year plan to replace our current system, which in its current state would be totally destroyed in a major earthquake. Please add some language to your vision that recognizes this deficit in our current water system.	Again, I am not seeing any awareness of the future tragic results when a major earthquake strikes unless we get serious about planning for such an event. A group of us are working in very creative ways in our high rise condo building with essentially no support from the city. We are having to figure it all out ourselves without input from experts. As far as I am aware, no other apartment or condominium building in downtown Bellevue is planning in any way. Scary. Can you imagine what will happen to the dense population of downtown if there is no water, power, or sanitation for two weeks or more? I hope this gives you some pause as you envision our future. Thank you.
1490756		Comcast/Xfinity enjoys a too-comfortable monopoly in many parts of Bellevue. It's a shame that we're a city built on big tech but often the only choice you have for home internet is Comcast. I applaud the 5G rollout, but that's still too unreliable for most in this hilly city.	
1491657	Update to existing policy to strengthen the city's move away from fossil fuels to cost-effective and sustainable energy.  New policy to develop plans and update agreements that will support decarbonization of the electric grid.	I can't think of anything at the moment.	

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1497740	Equity. While we are a relatively wealthy community, we must remember that not all residents are advantaged.	Strive to de-monopolize internet service provision. For decades now, Comcast/Xfinity has remained the only realistic option for much of the city, and their attitude, rates, and poor customer service reflect they do not worry much about competition.	That I appreciate their public service. And that I hope that, in this highly polarized and somewhat post-truth times, that facts and rationality guide their efforts and decisions, and not the incendiary nature of so much traditional and social media echo chambers.
1498294		Love the focus on equity, but it doesn't address the cost of utilities. PSE rates continue to rise and the water bills are enough to make someone leave the city.	
1498385	Update existing policy to meet new state requirements for minimizing loss of native plants and use sustainable approaches to stormwater management on infrastructure projects.	More public facilities for work out, like swimming pools, volleyball court.	
1498562	Equity consideration for seniors and others who live alone in houses.	Those of us who live alone and are conscientious about recycling, don't need weekly garbage pick-up service. I only need monthly service call for my trash and recycle bins and only two or three times a year for yard waste. Yet, there is no special rate with Republic Services for reduced service. Please work on a contract with this company so that those of us who use their services less than weekly can pay less. Right now, we pay the full amount but many of us only use their service 1/4 of the time. This is not fair to us seniors and does not represent an equitable policy decision. Seattle offers this type of reduced service at a reduced cost and so does Portland, OR. Why can't Bellevue?	Let them know there are a lot of us seniors living in Bellevue who want to stay in our homes and this consideration would help reduce the costs of home ownership we are all facing at his stage in our lives. We need help from the city government to negotiate a new contract with Republic Services. I've spoken with their representative and she told me they could offer this service pricing if the city wants to offer it in a new contract.

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1498585	Emphasis added for the Climate Change new policy relating to vulnerability of electric grid to climate change.	<p>Add to Climate change new policy relating to the vulnerability of water supply to climate change</p> <p>Add to Climate change new policies relating to encouraging preparedness and prioritizing safety of neighborhoods relating to increased emergencies (flooding, landslides, drought, wild fire, seismic activity) relating to natural disasters and climate change -- particularly south of I-90 along that corridor like Somerset, Cougar Mountain and off of Lakemont and Hilltop.</p>	Climate Change and inclement weather may severely adversely impact our area -- particularly extreme weather -- rain/flooding risks, sub zero weather/ice and snow storms, high winds, smoke/wild fire risks/high heat, storms, mud/landslide risks, etc.
1499442	I support Bellevue to take stronger action on preventing and reducing greenhouse gas pollution. I also support planning ahead for a changing climate. On most of these policies, I support them, and would encourage stronger action.	<p>The city needs to be crystal clear in its advocacy that it supports the development of a carbon-free electricity system. Reliability is one component of that, but if only reliability is mentioned, the city could inadvertently end up supporting fossil fuels. Please ensure the city's position on this is updated.</p> <p>Bellevue should speed up and streamline solarization and electrification permitting for homes.</p> <p>Bellevue should work with the electricity utility to investigate how to lead on a smarter and more interactive use of electricity, for example through smart charging and building the capability for households to contribute (automatically) to grid events as several utilities and cities have already started to do. The large batteries in cars, as well as solar panels, water heaters, and HVAC thermostats, can collectively provide the capabilities of a "virtual power plant".</p>	Please look to best practices globally around getting clean, efficient, and smart with electricity. Partner with the utility companies to make this easy for residents and businesses.
1504219	Update existing policy to meet new state requirements for minimizing loss of native plants and use sustainable		Common sense policies that transition without placing financial burdens on homeowners, particularly the middle class and seniors.

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	approaches to stormwater management on infrastructure projects. Common sense.		
1504396	Safe expansion of the current utility grid is essential.	Consideration to put internet access under review and into the utility umbrella.	Consider internet access and speeds as essential as other utilities.
1505464			The "equity" thing is getting old. Life isn't fair. Pull up your bootstraps and deal with it. I did.
1508128	All environmental-oriented policy updates sound good. We need to reverse 70 years of utility thinking when it comes to update Bellevue infrastructure		Ensure that Utility policies are not in conflict with others, in particular transportation. Environmentally sound utility decision should trump transportation requirements so long as safety is not compromised.
1508456		UT-39 should include planning for water demand growth as is seen in the UT-45.	

**Which of these moves sound good and why?**

- Love: resilience to climate impacts.

**Are there any policy ideas missing?**

- Establish a new requirement for the city to use lifecycle cost estimating procedures in conjunction with CIP/planning and preparation
- Water bill is high for me. Need a water reclamation incentive for people in collect rain water for use.
- Keep Natural Gas. Natural gas is the cleanest, most effective & least expensive form of energy. Wind & solar is unreliable & electric is declining due to dam removal.
- With middle housing, city needs to consider upgrading sewer, storm.
- Energy smart Eastside
- Is it possible to require compost at multifamily apartment & condo complexes? I have to drive around to compost stuff. Or even create more compost facilities around the city?
- Rain gardens & bioswales should be used to reduce cost of stormwater bills.
- Ditch PSE! Community solar & storage! Micro grid.
- Why don't we brand this "water services" not "utilities"? Confusing.

**What do you want Planning Commissioners to know? (no responses)**